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Producers-cum-Consumers Co-operative Societies in Malabar.

* 131-F *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA MENON (on behalf of Dr. K. B. Menon) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Co-operation be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total amount involved in the irregularities of office-bearers of Co-operative Societies in the State during the years 1948–52;

(*b*) the number of societies superseded by Special Officers; and

(*c*) the nature of the charges framed against the office-bearers in Producers-cum-Consumers Co-operative Societies against whom criminal charges were framed during the years between 1948–52?

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" (*a*) The amount involved in the irregularities of the office-bearears of the Producers-cum-Consumers Co-operative Societies in Malabar district during the years 1948–52 is Rs. 3,01,883 and that misappropriated by the office-bearers of other co-operative societies in the State during these years is Rs. 12,71,080.

" (*b*) The number of Producers-cum-Consumers Co-operative Societies whose committees were superseded in Malabar district during the period 1948–52, is 12 and the number of other co-operative societies in the State which were superseded, is 126.

" (*c*) Misappropriation of the Society's funds is a common offence in most cases besides cases of theft and the like. Prosecutions were launched wherever possible."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know how such huge defalcations were possible when the societies were supervised by the Supplies Department and audited periodically and annually by the officers of the Co-operative department? "

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" In spite of these things, they happen. We cannot help it."

9-30 a.m. SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, in taking proceedings in these cases, will the Government assure the House that they will take proceedings not only against the employees but also against those entrusted with the responsibility of supervision and audit during these periods when these defalcations took place? "

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" Sir, it is on account of the supervision and audit that these irregularities were noticed. But for this audit and supervision, nothing would have come out."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, the hon. Member wants that the policemen should be punished whenever some crime is committed." (Laughter.)

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, inasmuch as there has been inordinate delay in the investigation and taking of proceedings and during this period in some cases the persons

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responsible die, as in the case of Kongad Society, and the society suffers a great loss, will the Government see that the prosecutions are conducted expeditiously at least in the future?"

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" Certainly, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Answers to the remaining questions will be published in the printed proceedings."

SRI G. C. KONDIAH :—" On a point of order, Sir, a number of questions given notice of by hon. Members have lapsed due to the prorogation of the House. Hon. Members are therefore put to the necessity of giving fresh notices for the questions to be answered. This takes a lot of time. Will the Government therefore treat all the questions that were given notice of as having been renewed and answer those questions?"

MR. SPEAKER :—" This point has been raised here a number of times and answered."

[Question No. 131-G postponed to 24th March.]

Water-supply scheme for Guntakkal Municipality.

* 131-H *Q.*—SRI S. NARAYANAPPA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state why the second stage of Guntakkal Municipal Protected Water-Supply Scheme has not been commenced?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The second stage of the water-supply scheme for Guntakkal Municipality consists of Parts A and B. The Chief Engineer (General) has submitted plans and estimates for part A of the scheme. The question of sanctioning these plans and estimates is under the active consideration of the Government and orders will be issued as early as possible.

The plans and estimates for part B of the second stage are in an advanced stage of preparation and the Chief Engineer has been asked to expedite them."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—GOVERNMENT MOTION.

(1) MOTION UNDER RULE 22 OF THE ASSEMBLY RULES.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I beg to move—

'*That under rule 22 of the Madras Assembly Rules the Demands for Advance Grants for the year* 1953–54 *be taken up in the following order, viz.* :—

VIII. Irrigation
I. Land Revenue
XIV. Police
XV. Education
IV. Forest

and then the other Demands.' "